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84. A composition comprising infectious alphavirus particles in an immunogenic effective amount, wherein said alphavirus particles comprise one or more heterologous nucleotide sequences encoding an antigen; and wherein said antigen is a native cancer cell antigen.

Remarks

Claims 1-8 and 11-84 are pending following entry of the claim amendments submitted herein. The amendments and claim election will be addressed individually hereinbelow.

Claim Amendments.

Claim 1 has been amended and new Claim 84 added to rewrite the Markush group of originally-filed Claim 1 as two independent claims.

Claims 9 and 10 have been canceled in view of the amendments to Claim 1. Accordingly, dependent Claims 11 and 13 have been amended to depend from Claim 1 instead of canceled Claim 10.

Claims 2-5, 13 and 16 have been amended to put the claims in better form for examination by providing clearer antecedent basis and correcting typographical errors.

Election.

The Office Action states that Claims 1-83 are drawn to three patentably-distinct inventions. Applicants elect with traverse the claims of Group I (*i.e.*, Claims 1-16 and new Claim 84), which are drawn to compositions comprising alphavirus particles. The Restriction is traversed on the basis that it would not be an undue burden to simultaneously examine the claims of Groups I-III concurrently.

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Conclusion.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for substantive examination, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on August 7, 2000.

Marjorie J. Pfeiffer
Date of Signature: August 7, 2000